Notice of Allowability	Application No. 09/608,851	Applicant(s) ELLMORE, KIMBERLY	
	Examiner Minh Dieu Nguyen	Art Unit 2137	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *April 5, 2005*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-4, 6-14, 16-17, 21, 24-28 and 31-36

3. ☒ The drawings filed on *June 30, 2000* are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

    Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____ .

ANDREW CALDWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Michael Phelps on 5/23/2005.

2.   The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend the claims as specified on page 3.

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method for accessing a plurality of financial accounts using a single sign on procedure, the method comprising the steps of:

> receiving a request from a user to access the plurality of financial accounts;
>
> prompting the user for a user identification;
>
> receiving the user identification from the user;
>
> prompting the user for a password;
>
> receiving the password from the user;
>
> determining the ownership verification information requirements for each of the plurality of financial accounts;
>
> ranking the ownership verification information requirements for each of the plurality of financial accounts on the basis of the stringency of the ownership verification information requirements for each of the plurality of financial accounts;
>
> prompting the user for user-provided ownership verification information related to the financial account with the most stringent ownership verification information requirements;
>
> receiving the user-provided ownership verification information from the user; and
>
> determining whether the user-provided ownership verification information satisfies the ownership verification information requirements of the financial account with the most stringent ownership verification information requirements, and, if so, then providing the user with the requested access to the plurality of financial accounts.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the stringency of the ownership verification is determined on the basis of the amount of ownership verification information required.

4. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the stringency of the ownership verification is determined on the basis of the level of detail of ownership verification information requited.

5. (cancelled)

6. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of financial accounts reside on separate systems, the step of providing the user with the requested access further comprises providing the user with access to the separate systems.

7. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of providing the user with summary information with respect to the plurality of financial accounts.

8. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

> prompting the user to create a user identification;
>
> prompting the user to create a password; and
>
> establishing the user identification and password with respect to the user,

wherein the creation and establishment steps occur online.

9. (original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the creation and establishment steps occur during a single online session.

10. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of prompting the user to create original answers to challenge questions.

11. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

> presenting one or more of the challenge questions to the user;
>
> receiving the user's answers to the one or more challenge questions; and
>
> providing the user with the requested access if the user's answers to the one

or more challenge questions match the original answers.

12. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of prompting the user to create cue questions, the cue questions providing the user with a cue as to the user's password.

13. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

    presenting one or more of the cue questions to the user;

    receiving the user's answer to the one or more cue questions; and

    prompting the user for the password.

14. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

    prompting the user to select which of the plurality of financial accounts the user desires to access online;

    receiving the user's selection of financial accounts; and

    providing the user with access to only the selected financial accounts.

15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

    prompting the user to see if the user desires to view an additional one of the plurality of financial accounts;

    receiving a request to see the additional financial account from the user;

    determining the ownership verification information requirements for the additional financial account; and

    performing the ranking step again, taking into account the ownership verification information requirements for the additional financial account.

17. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the financial accounts include checking and savings accounts, mortgages, credit card accounts, investment accounts, online trading accounts, auto loans and leases, home equity loans, personal loans, trust accounts, 401k accounts and insurance accounts.

18-20. (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) A method for controlling access to a financial services Internet site comprising the steps of:

    receiving a request from a user to sign up to the financial services Internet site;

determining if the user is a customer having a plurality of financial accounts at the financial institution operating the financial services Internet site;

allowing the user to create a user identification and password regardless of whether the user is a customer;

if the user is a customer:

> displaying a list of the plurality of financial accounts to the user;

> receiving a list of selected financial accounts from the user;

> determining the ownership verification information requirements for each of the selected financial accounts;

> ranking the ownership verification information requirements for each of the selected financial accounts on the basis of the stringency of the ownership verification requirements for each of the selected financial accounts;

> prompting the user for user-provided ownership verification information related to the selected financial account with the most stringent ownership verification requirements;

receiving the ownership verification information from the user; and

> determining whether the user-provided ownership verification information satisfies the ownership verification information requirements of the financial account with the most stringent ownership verification information requirements, and, if so, then displaying a summary of the plurality of financial accounts to the user.

22-23. (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the plurality of financial accounts reside on separate systems, and the method further comprises the step of providing the user with access to the plurality of financial accounts on the separate systems.

25. (original) The method as recited in claim 24, further comprising the step of allowing the user to conduct transactions with respect to at least one of the plurality of financial accounts.

26. (original) The method as recited in claim 21, further comprising the step of allowing the user to perform the steps of creating the user identification and password in more than one session.

27. (original) The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the user is an individual.

28. (original) The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the user represents a business.

29-30. (cancelled)

31. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 35, further comprising:

a database coupled to the application server, the database containing the first amount of ownership verification information and the second amount of ownership verification information.

32. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 35, further comprising a firewall coupled between the network and the interface.

33. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 35, further comprising a firewall coupled between the interface server and the application server.

34. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 35, wherein the network is the Internet.

35. (previously presented) A system for controlling access to financial accounts comprising:

an interface to a network, wherein a user can connect to the interface through the network;

at least one network server coupled to the interface, the network server communicating with the user to:

receive a request from the user to access at least one of the two or more financial accounts,

receive a user identification and password from the user, and

receive user-provided ownership verification information from the user related to at least one of the two or more financial accounts;

a first financial system maintaining a first of the two or more financial accounts, the first financial account requiring a first amount of ownership verification information to grant access thereto;

a second financial system maintaining a second of the two or more financial accounts, the second financial account requiring a second amount of ownership verification information to grant access thereto;

an application server coupled to the network server, the first financial system and the second financial system; the application server adapted to:

compare the first amount of ownership verification information with the second amount of ownership verification information to determine which of the first financial account and second financial account requires the most stringent ownership verification information;

determine whether the user-provided ownership verification information satisfies the ownership verification information required by the financial account that requires the most stringent verification information, and, if so, then grant the user access to both the first financial account and the second financial account.

36. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

determining whether the user-provided ownership verification information satisfies the ownership verification information requirements of the financial account with the most stringent ownership verification information requirements, and, if not, then providing the user with access to only the financial accounts of the plurality of financial accounts having ownership verification information requirements that are satisfied by the user-provided ownership verification information.

37 - 41. (cancelled)

Allowable Subject Matter

3.   The examiner's amendment indicates the cancellation of claims 37-41.

4.   Claims 1, 3-4, 6-14, 16-17, 21, 24-28 and 31-36 are allowed.

5.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Dieu Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3873. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:00-2:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on 571-272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Minh Dieu Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 2137

mdn
5/24/05

**ANDREW CALDWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**